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Commonwealth of Virginia  
Virginia Port Authority

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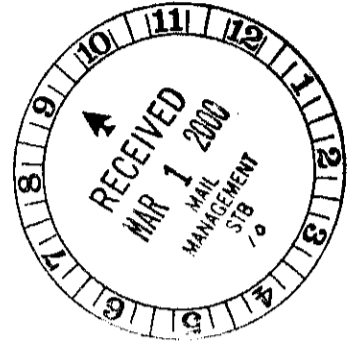
**SUSAN E. DEWEY,** *State Treasurer*

**600 WORLD TRADE  
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23510**

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**J. ROBERT BRAY**  
*Executive Director*

February 29, 2000



Mr. Vernon A. Williams, Secretary  
Surface Transportation Board  
Office of the Secretary  
Case Control Unit  
Attn: STB Ex Parte No. 582  
1925 K Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20433-0001

Dear Mr. Williams:

Pursuant to the Board's decision of February 16, 2000, please find enclosed (10) ten copies of this letter and summary, and an electronic copy of the same on a 3.5 inch IBM floppy diskette convertible to WordPerfect 7.0 format, of the remarks to be made by the Office of the Secretary of Transportation of the Commonwealth of Virginia and/or by the Virginia Port Authority at the public hearing on March 10, 2000.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

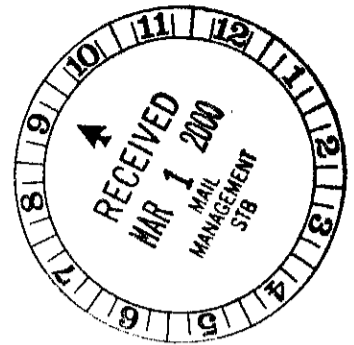
*Robert R. Merhige, III /cmr*

Robert R. Merhige, III  
Deputy Executive Director and  
General Counsel

Enclosures

Cc: Hon. Shirley J. Ybarra, Secretary of Transportation  
J. Robert Bray

Summary of Remarks  
To be Made By Virginia's Office of the Secretary of Transportation  
and/or  
The Virginia Port Authority  
Before  
The Surface Transportation Board  
On March 10, 2000  
In Re: STB Ex Parte No. 582



The Office of the Secretary of Transportation of the Commonwealth of Virginia and the Virginia Port Authority desire to make two major points.

First, from the vantage point of a customer of rail service, the Virginia Port Authority is concerned that the promise of the previous major rail mergers has not yet been realized. Clearly, operating and other adjustments still need to be made. Thus, the timing is simply not right to add yet additional potential disruptions to the nations' freight system.

Second, both BN and CN have made references to their intention to divert United States freight from American to Canadian ports. Beyond question, the combination of those railroads could have a massive impact in that regard. Thus, the STB must seriously consider the interests of United States' ports--and the hundreds of thousands of U.S. jobs that depend on the vitality of those ports--in connection with this matter.



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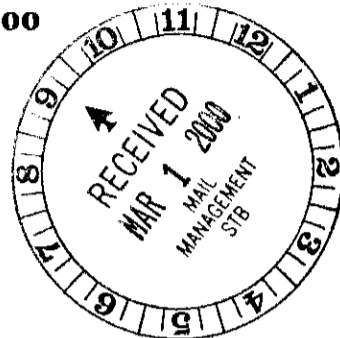
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**ENTERED  
Office of the Secretary**

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Public Record**

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